

In the Claims

1. (Original): A nucleic acid that encodes the coat protein of Mirafiori lettuce virus, comprising (a) or (b) below:

(a) a nucleic acid that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;

(b) the nucleic acid of (a) that encodes a coding region of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. (Original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is an RNA.

3. (Original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is a DNA.

4. (Original): A DNA that encodes a sense RNA complementary to the complementary strand of the nucleic acid of claim 2.

5. (Original): A DNA that encodes an antisense RNA complementary to the nucleic acid of claim 2.

6. (Original): A DNA that encodes an RNA having ribozyme activity to specifically cleave the nucleic acid of claim 2.

7. (Original): A vector that comprises the nucleic acid of claim 3.

8. (Currently amended): A transformed cell ~~that comprises~~ comprising the nucleic acid ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 3 ~~or the vector of claim 7.~~

9. (Original): A protein encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 1.

10. (Original): An antibody that binds to the protein of claim 9.

11. (Currently amended): A method for producing the protein ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 9, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

(a) culturing the transformed cell of claim 8 or claim 21; and

(b) recovering the expressed protein from said transformed cell or its culture supernatant.

12. (Currently amended): A vector ~~that comprises~~ comprising the DNA ~~of any one of claims~~ according to claim 4 to 6.

13. (Currently amended): A transformed plant cell which carries the nucleic acid ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 1, the DNA ~~[[of]]~~ according to any one of claims 4 ~~[[to]]~~ through 6, or the vector ~~of claim 7 or 12~~ according to any one of claims 7, 12, 18 or 19.

14. (Original): A transformed plant that comprises the transformed plant cell of claim 13.

15. (Original): A transformed plant that is a progeny or clone of the transformed plant of claim 14.

16. (Currently amended): A propagation material of the transformed plant ~~[[of]]~~ according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~.

17. (Original): A method for diagnosing Mirafiori lettuce virus infection, wherein said method comprises the step of:

detecting the nucleic acid of claim 1 or the protein of claim 9 in a plant cell or in *Olpidium brassicae*, which is a fungal vector of Mirafiori lettuce virus.

18. (New): A vector comprising the DNA according to claim 5.

19. (New): A vector comprising the DNA according to claim 6.

20. (New): A propagation material of the transformed plant according to claim 15.

21. (New) A transformed cell comprising the vector according to claim 7.